

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Lector/Intercessor: Christine Ruff
Communion Assistant: Samantha Hillegass
Acolyte: Noah Pittard
Ushers: Dale Merrell, Gretchen Walker,
Robert Davis, Lex Patterson, Samantha Hillegass
Videographer: Annette Propst
Greeter: Laura Patterson
Building Supervisor: Kenny Propst

PRAYER LIST

Brad Baker; Joyce Beaty (friend of the Marlow's); Angie Buchanan; Mike & Debbie Cagle (friends of Robert & Debbie Davis); Noah Clifton; Bruce Coffey (friend of Mark Murphy); Karey Conrad (friend of Dee Pieschel); Emma DePaulis; Nadine Filipak (friend of Al & Dee Pieschel); Anne Fridlund; Ed Frost (friend of the Marlow's); Tim Gibson (friend of Deb Black); Tom Grady; Scott Harrington (friend of Glenda Poole); Linda Jones (family of Barbara & Dale Merrell); Ruther Lawler (friend of Dee & Al Pieschel); Annaleah, Michael, & Preston Morrow (friends of Shannon Nesbit); Stan Parnell (friend of Robert Davis); Jan Phillips (family of Brownie Brown); Tom Ridenhour; Geoff & Pam Seige (friends of Robert & Debbie Davis).

ALTAR FLOWERS

Today's altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of Kendall Bost by Kelley Carpenter.

A MEMORIAL SERVICE

Ann Porter Ridenhour died on December 19, 2024. Pastor Bill will lead a brief funeral liturgy with Holy Communion on **Wednesday, January 22nd at 11am** at St. James. There is no visitation. As concerns St. James, Ann is survived by her second husband, Rev. Dr. Thomas E. Ridenhour, Sr.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are seeking volunteers to assist with Sunday ministries. If you are willing to volunteer as a communion assistant, lector, videographer, or acolyte, please sign up by scanning the code or visiting the website!



**The Second Sunday after the Epiphany
Sunday, January 19, 2025**

The Holy Communion

10:00am



**St. James Lutheran Church
104 Union Street South
PO Box 684
Concord, North Carolina 28026
704-786-0166
www.sjnc.net
Rev. William C. Ridenhour, Pastor**

Welcome to St. James Lutheran Church

Maybe you need forgiveness, or maybe you need to forgive ... Maybe you're tired and you need a little space to breathe ... Maybe you're trying church for the first time, or maybe you're trying church for the last time... Maybe you've spent your whole life wondering if God really loves you... Maybe you're lonely... Maybe you're sick... Maybe you came here looking for a miracle... Maybe you came here looking for another church but got disoriented and came here instead, and now it's too late to get up and walk out... Maybe, with God, there are no accidents... Maybe, with God, there is hope and healing and miraculous companionship... Maybe, with God, there is space to breathe and forgiveness on top of forgiveness... Maybe, with God, there is love... Maybe, with God here in our midst, we will hear those words that still split open the heavens, "You are my son! You are my daughter! You are my beloved. You. In you I am well pleased!" Maybe this is why we gather together, week after week after week, here at St. James.

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome in this place - not just by the Saints at St. James, but by the God who revealed himself in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, our brother, and our friend.

Welcome to St. James.

If you are comfortable doing so, please introduce yourself to Pastor Bill. If you have visited with us a number of times and think you might want to "make it official," please speak to Pastor Bill. If you have any questions, please feel free to speak to the person next to you or to an usher.

Restrooms are located on the first and second floor of the Education Building. A nursery is available for children up to and including five years of age on the first floor of the education building. An usher will be happy to help you find them.

If you're visiting or if you have been here for 99 years (and are willing to do so), please sign a pew pad.

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BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Jan. 19 – Carrie Craver, Gail Johnson, Kristin Rinker
Jan. 21 – Michael Phillips
Jan. 22 – Samantha Cooley, Jeff Jones, Jason Pittard
Jan. 25 – Anne Fridlund

CHURCH CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Salvation Army Meal Week

Sunday, Jan. 19	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
	9:00am	Parish Choir
	9:30am	Children's Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship
Monday, Jan. 20	<i>Church Office Closed</i>	
	10:30am	Quilting
	6:30pm	Scouts
Wednesday, Jan. 22	5:30pm	Handbells
Thursday, Jan. 23	6:30pm	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, Jan. 26	9:00am	Adult Sunday School
	9:00am	Parish Choir
	9:30am	Children's Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship
	11:00am	Snow Event!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY - MEAL PACKING

Join us on **Saturday, March 8th, at 10:00 am at Gibson Mill** for a morning of service with Lifeline Christian Mission to pack 10,800 meals! The event is from 10:00am to 11:30am, and all necessary supplies will be provided. Visit the link to sign up!

<https://sjnc.net/special-event-sign-ups>.

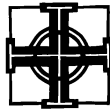
SNOW EVENT!

Attention Families!

You are invited to a SNOW EVENT after church on **Sunday, January 26th**. Join us in the Fellowship Hall for a light lunch and snow activities! We'll have sno-cones for dessert!

RSVP by January 24th by scanning code below.





St James Lutheran Church:
Growing in Christ through Worship, Learning, Fellowship and Service.

THE HOLY COMMUNION



Welcome

Prelude Gothic Minuet (from Suite Gothique) Boëllmann

Please stand.

THE INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

THE BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Please sit or kneel, as able.
 Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

P Most merciful God,
C **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

THE ENTRANCE HYMN: Alleluia, Song of Gladness

1 Al - le - lu - ia, song of glad - ness, voice of joy that can - not die;
 2 Al - le - lu - ia! Lead our prais - es, true Je - ru - sa - lem and free;
 3 Al - le - lu - ia can - not al - ways be our song while here be - low;
 4 In our hymns we pray with long - ing: Grant us, bless - ed Trin - i - ty,

al - le - lu - ia is the an - them ev - er dear to choirs on high;
 al - le - lu - ia, joy - ful moth - er, bring us to your ju - bi - lee;
 al - le - lu - ia our trans - gres - sions make us for a while for - go;
 at the last to keep glad Eas - ter with the faith - ful saints on high;

in the house of God a - bid - ing thus they sing e - ter - nal - ly.
 but by Bab - y - lon's sad wa - ters mourn - ing ex - iles now are we.
 for the sol - emn time is com - ing when our tears for sin shall flow.
 there to you for - ev - er sing - ing al - le - lu - ia joy - ful - ly.

THE APOSTOLIC GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
C And also with you.

THE HYMN OF PRAISE

A Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.

B Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther:

We wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:

You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

You are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,

in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you
C And also with you.
P Lord God, you showed your glory and led many to faith by the works of your Son. As he brought gladness and healing to his people, grant us these same gifts and lead us also to perfect faith in him, Jesus Christ our Lord.
C Amen.



Please sit.
THE FIRST READING: Isaiah 62:1-5

¹For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.

²The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the Lord will give.

³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

⁴You shall no more be termed Forsaken,
and your land shall no more be termed Desolate;
but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her,
and your land Married;
for the Lord delights in you,
and your land shall be married.

⁵For as a young man marries a young woman,
so shall your builder marry you,
and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride,
so shall your God rejoice over you.

A The Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

THE SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

¹Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. ²You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. ³Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says "Let Jesus be cursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit.

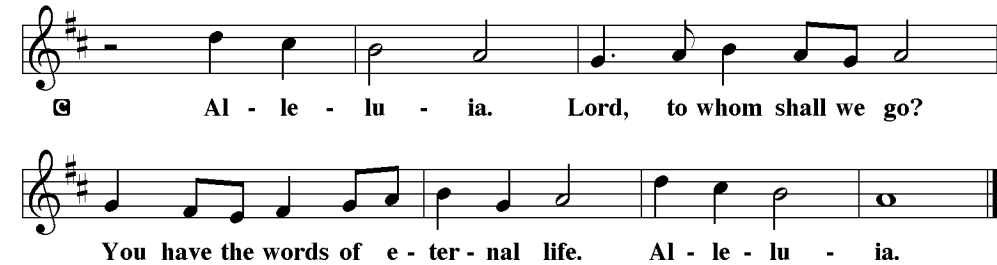
⁴Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; ⁶and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰to

another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

A The Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

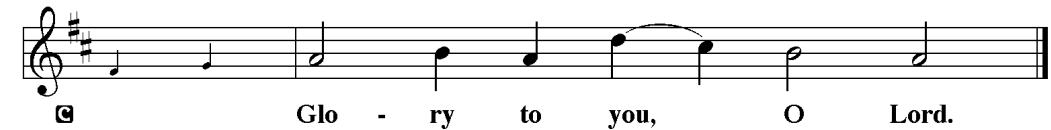
Please stand.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



THE HOLY GOSPEL

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 2nd chapter.



¹On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ²Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." ⁴And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." ⁵His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." ⁶Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. ⁷Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. ⁹When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom ¹⁰and said to him, "Everyone serves the

good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.”¹¹ Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

Musical notation for the phrase "Praise to you, O Christ." in G major, 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, starting on a half note G4 and moving stepwise up to a half note G5.

Please sit.

THE SERMON

Pastor Bill Ridenhour

Please stand.

THE HYMN OF THE DAY: #90 Songs of Thankfulness and Praise (See next page.)

THE APOSTLES' CREED

**C I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.*

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic Church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen

Musical notation for the first part of the hymn, including the first four lines of lyrics. The melody is in G major, 4/4 time.

1 Songs of thank-ful - ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to thee we raise;
2 Man - i - fest at Jor - dan's stream, Proph-et, Priest, and King su - preme;
3 Man - i - fest in mak - ing whole pal - sied limbs and faint-ing soul;
4 Grant us grace to see thee, Lord, pres - ent in thy ho - ly word;

Musical notation for the second part of the hymn, including the next four lines of lyrics. The melody continues in G major, 4/4 time.

man - i - fest - ed by the star to the sa - ges from a - far,
and at Ca - na wed - ding guest in thy God-head man - i - fest;
man - i - fest in val - iant fight, quell-ing all the dev - il's might;
grace to im - i - tate thee now and be pure, as pure art thou;

Musical notation for the third part of the hymn, including the next four lines of lyrics. The melody continues in G major, 4/4 time.

branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem in thy birth at Beth - le - hem:
man - i - fest in pow'r di - vine, chang-ing wa - ter in - to wine;
man - i - fest in gra - cious will, ev - er bring-ing good from ill:
that we might be - come like thee at thy great e - piph - a - ny,

Musical notation for the fourth part of the hymn, including the final four lines of lyrics. The melody concludes in G major, 4/4 time.

an - thems be to thee ad-dressed,
an - thems be to thee ad-dressed, God in flesh made man - i - fest.
an - thems be to thee ad-dressed,
and may praise thee, ev - er blest,

Please kneel or sit as able.

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

A In peace, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy"

A For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth and love, and be found without fault at the day of your coming, we pray to you, O Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

A For all bishops, pastors and deacons that they may speak the good news of Jesus Christ, and for all the holy people that may hear and live it willingly, we pray to you, O Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

A For all who fear God and believe in you, Lord Christ, that our divisions may cease, and that all may be one as you and the Father are one, we pray to you, O Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

A For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth. For those who do not yet believe, and for those who have lost their faith, that they may receive the light of the Gospel, we pray to you, O Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

A For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples. For those in positions of public trust that they may serve justice, and promote the dignity and freedom of every person, we pray to you, O Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

A For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you, O Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

A For this congregation, for those who are present, and for those who are absent, that we may be delivered from hardness of heart, and show forth your glory in all that we do, we pray to you, O Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

A For our enemies and those who wish us harm, and for all whom we have injured or offended, we pray to you, O Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

A For all who have died in the communion of your Church, and those whose faith is known to you alone, that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal, we pray to you, O Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

A Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.

C **To you, O Lord our God.**

P For yours is the majesty, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

Please sit.

THE ANTHEM

Create in Me a Clean Heart

Mueller

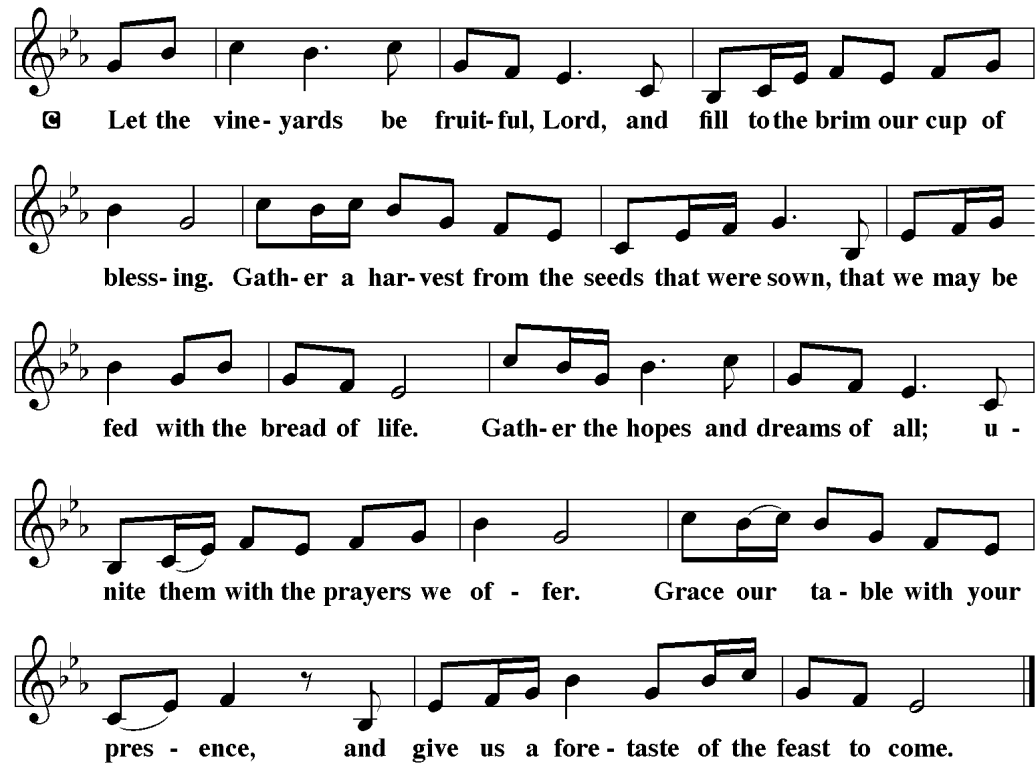
*Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.
Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.*

-Psalm 51:10-13

THE OFFERING

Please stand.

THE OFFERTORY



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Blessed are you,
C O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



THE COMMUNION RITE

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

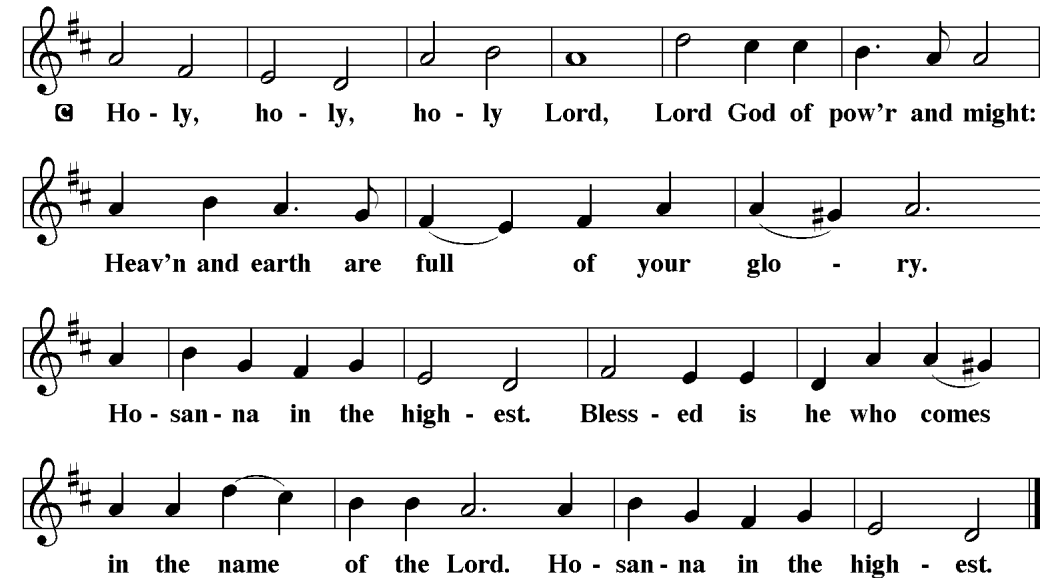
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord.

In him you have received us as your children, made us citizens of your kingdom, and given us your Holy Spirit to guide us into all truth.

And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

P Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign. You are the Life and Light of all. By your powerful word you created all things. Through the prophets you called your people to be a light to the nations.

Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son. He is your Light, shining in our darkness and revealing to us your mercy and might.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his preaching and healing, his dying and rising, and his promise to come again, we await that day when all the universe will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light.

By your Spirit bless us and this meal, that, refreshed with this heavenly food, we may be light for the world, revealing the brilliance of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

C Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in your Kingdom and teach us to pray:

C **Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**



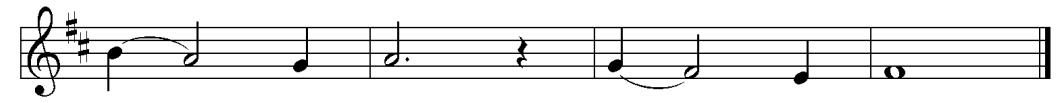
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;



grant us peace, grant us peace.

Please sit.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Q: What is the Sacrament of the Altar?

A: Instituted by Christ himself, it is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, given to us Christians to eat and to drink.

Q: What is the benefit of such eating and drinking?

A: We are told in the words “for you” and “for the forgiveness of sins.” By these words the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given to us in the sacrament, for where there is forgiveness of sins, there are also life and salvation.

-Luther's Small Catechism Part V

Jesus bids all the baptized to feast at his table. Please come by way of the center aisle and return by the side aisle. If you need help figuring out where to and when to go, an usher or fellow worshiper will help you. At one time we too were confused. For those unable to partake of wine, white grape juice is available. If you are unable to come to the altar, the pastor will bring communion to you at your seat. Please advise an usher.

Please stand.

THE POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C **Amen**

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P Let us pray,

P Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**

Silence for reflection.



THE BENEDICTION

P Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C **Amen**

THE SENDING HYMN: #224 Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness (See next page.)

THE DISMISSAL

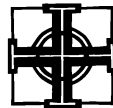
P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Allegro (from Sonata II)

Lowry



1 Soul, a - dorn your-self with glad-ness, leave the gloom-y haunts of sad-ness,
2 Has - ten as a bride to meet him, ea - ger - ly and glad - ly greet him.
3 Now in faith I hum-bly pon - der o - ver this sur-pass - ing won - der
4 Je - sus, source of last-ing plea-sure, tru - est friend, and dear-est trea-sure,



come in - to the day-light's splen-dor, there with joy your prais-es ren - der.
There he stands al-read - y knock-ing; quick - ly, now, your gate un-lock - ing,
that the bread of life is bound-less though the souls it feeds are count-less;
peace be - yond all un - der - stand - ing, joy in - to all life ex-pand-ing:



Bless the one whose grace un-bound-ed this a - maz - ing ban-quet found-ed;
o - pen wide the fast-closed por - tal, say - ing to the Lord im-mor - tal:
with the choic-est wine of heav - en Christ's own blood to us is giv - en.
hum-bly now, I bow be - fore you, love in - car - nate, I a - dore you;



he, though heav'n-ly, high, and ho - ly, deigns to dwell with you most low - ly.
"Come, and leave your loved one nev - er; dwell with-in my heart for - ev - er."
Oh, most glo-rious con - so-la - tion, pledge and seal of my sal - va - tion.
wor - thi - ly let me re - ceive you, and, so fa-vored, nev - er leave you.